

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 106211
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:AATHIBAULT,JR:EI
APPROVED BY NEA/INS:DKUX
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
NEA ONLY

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O 102302Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106211

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM KUX, NEA/INS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, CE

SUBJECT: MALARIA PROJECT

1. AT THE CONCLUSION OF APRIL 22 MEETING CHAIRED BY AID
TO REVIEW THE SRI LANKA MALARIA PROJECT, INCLUDING A
DETAILED REVIEW OF WHETHER FULL TIME MALARIOLOGIST SHOULD
BE ASSIGNED TO COLOMBO, DECISION WAS MADE TO HAVE THE
MONITORING FUNCTION FOR THE SRI LANKA PROGRAM CONDUCTED
BY A PART-TIME CONSULTANT ON A CONTRACT BASIS. IT WAS
UNDERSTOOD THAT A CONSULTANT WOULD HAVE TO AGREE TO LONG-
TERM COMMITMENT TO THE SRI LANKA PROJECT, FAILING WHICH
QUESTION OF FULL TIME ADVISOR WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED
ANEW.

2. AID/W IS PRESENTLY CIRCULATING A DRAFT MESSAGE TO THE
EMBASSY WHICH REPORTS THAT A CONSULTANT MEETING THESE
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PAGE 02 STATE 106211

CRITERIA IS UNAVAILABLE AND THAT ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENT
FOR THE MONITORING FUNCTION IS NECESSARY. IT IS PROPOSING
THE ASSIGNMENT TO COLOMBO OF A SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL MALARIA
SPECIALIST WHO WOULD DEVOTE 40 PERCENT OF HIS TIME TO THE
SRI LANKA PROGRAM. ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS HAVE BEEN CON-
SIDERED, SPECIFICALLY PAKISTAN, BUT THESE ARE CLAIMED NOT
TO BE PRACTICAL BECAUSE OF THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF HAVING

SUCH A SPECIALIST SPEND SUFFICIENT TIME IN SRI LANKA
AWAY FROM HIS HOME POST.

3. I HAVE READ PERKINS-THIBAUT LETTER OF FEBRUARY 8
WHICH ARGUES PERSUASIVELY AGAINST SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT,
CITING LOGISTICAL DIFFICULTIES AMONG OTHERS, AND WE WILL
REPEAT THOSE POINTS TO AID. OUR LINE HAS BEEN THAT THE
CREATION OF A FULL-TIME MALARIA POSITION CAN BE ACCOMMO-
DATED ONLY BY THE SACRIFICE OF ANOTHER APPROVED POSITION
IN THE AID COMPLEMENT IF WE ARE TO HOLD TO OUR TARGET
CEILING OF FIVE AMERICAN POSITIONS.

4. I HOPE THAT THE MALARIA PROGRAM, WITH ITS IMPORTANT
HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENTAL ASPECTS, CAN BE ACCOMMO-
DATED WITHIN THIS CEILING OR WITHIN AN ARRANGEMENT IN
WHICH A REGIONAL ADVISOR WOULD BE BASED ELSEWHERE THAN
IN COLOMBO. HOWEVER, BEFORE RESPONDING TO AID I WANT TO
BE SURE THAT NEA/INS AND THE EMBASSY ARE ON THE SAME WAVE
LENGTH IN TRYING TO HOLD THE LINE ON THE PROPOSED POSITION
AND WOULD THEREFORE WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS ISSUE.

5. IF POSSIBLE COULD WE RECEIVE YOUR VIEWS BY OUR OPENING
OF BUSINESS WEDNESDAY, MAY 10? REQUEST REPLY BE STADIS/
NEA ONLY. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE106211
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AATHIBAULT,JR:EI
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770164-1237
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770573/aaaacleq.tel
Line Count: 87
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cbff4497-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2579204
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALARIA PROJECT
TAGS: OGEN, CE
To: COLOMBO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cbff4497-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009